(b) whether 50 seater air crafts will be deployed at least twice a week in the above sectors with an immediate effect;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present, no scheduled operators including private scheduled operator is operating any air service on Agartala-Imphal sector. However, Alliance Air is operating scheduled air service on Silchar-Agartala-Silchar sector as per the following details:

Silchar-Agartala-Silchar ATR 42 2 flights/week

Government has laid down Route Disposal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Alliance Air has, however, informed that constraints of resources do not permit air linking Agartala with Imphal with ATR aircraft at present.

Theft cases at IGI Airport, Delhi

†*389. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of theft registered at Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last one year; and

(b) the steps being taken to stop the incidents of theft at the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last one year, 25 cases of theft and stolen property were reported at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. In the Cargo Terminal 2 cases of theft were registered.

(b) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel have been deployed at the airports for Surveillance. Close Circuit TV (CCTV) systems have been installed at all vital locations for surveillance.

†Original notice of the the question was received in Hindi.

Surveillance during operational night hours has been increased. Procedures for movement of vehicles and materials existing/entering the airport have been streamlined and regulated. Passengers/visitors/ employees of various agencies at airports are being screened. Directorate General of re-settlement has been entrusted the job of security of cargo and infrastructure at cargo terminal. Airport Security Committee Meeting is held once a month to review the security arrangements at the airport.

Tapping of underground water by Soft Drinks MNCs

*390. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many soft drinks MNCs have been taping underground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the draining of country's water resources?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Soft Drinks Multi National Companies (MNCs) are tapping ground water in various parts of the country. The details of ground water being utilised by soft drinks companies including MNCs are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

In order to regulate ground water withdrawal by industries including aerated drink manufactures, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, had circulated a list of critical areas to State Pollution Control Boards, Ministry of Environment & Forests etc. which refer proposals of new industries to CGWA for obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) before issuing permission. Depending upon the availability of ground water and site specific scientific considerations in such areas, NOC is granted by the CGWA on case to case basis. A pre-condition for such permission is the mandatory adoption of rain water harvesting system for ground water recharge by the industry. Since licensing authority for any industry is the State Government/State agencies/State Pollution Control Board, any action to stop the draining of ground water by the industries is to be taken by them.